

Military Spying Overkill Described to Senate Panel

By Michael Getler
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A classic case of military intelligence overkill—in which a group of 119 demonstrators outside a gate at Ft. Carson, Colo., included 53 undercover agents from all services plus a sprinkling of newsmen—unfolded yesterday before Sen. Sam J. Ervin's Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights.

Above the crowd, the committee was told by former agent Laurence F. Land, now a legislative aide to Rep. Robert H. Giarmo (D-Conn.), at least six helicopters hovered to watch and take pictures.

But the choppers made so much noise that the agents on the ground couldn't tape record speeches antiwar agitators were making.

Lane, who served for a year and a half in the G-2 (intelligence) section of the 5th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, told the committee that the incident outside the gate said a lot about how military spying got out of hand.

Rather than any "planned



CURTIS GRAVES

... tells of surveillance

national military conspiracy," Lane said, it was the action of individual commanders that pushed the military well beyond its authorized intelligence-gathering role. Rivalry among neighboring commanders, mistrust of information developed by other sources, spies from one unit trailing those of another, the personal view of each commander about snooping on civilians, and the constant demand for quantity rather than quality all played a part, he said.

Intelligence gathered by agents, whether reliable or not, Lane said, was forwarded to Army Intelligence Headquarters at Ft. Holabird, Md., where it went into the computers and then out again to other commands as substantiated facts.

The information could be damaging not only to those spied upon, he said, but to any Army troops that eventually had to rely on it.

Lane said one dossier sent from Ft. Holabird to Ft. Carson on comedian-civil rights activist Dick Gregory "was so tainted it was usable. I was amazed . . . it was completely subjective, based on unsubstantiated information and unreliable sources with no attempt to be objective."

Another ex-Ft. Carson agent, Oliver A. Pierce, told of being ordered to infiltrate a Young Adult Project, sponsored by the Pike's Peak Council of Churches to see if its leader was influencing local GIs. After six months, Pierce said, he reported no influence, but was kept on the job.

Ervin also revealed instances of infiltration of church groups in a number of letters he said have come from other agents and individuals since he announced his hearings.

One report said the Navy had the Episcopal bishop of California under surveillance for antiwar activities. Another indicated that the Navy was still involved in domestic surveillance as late as December, 1970, well beyond a Pentagon-ordered cutoff.

Ervin also said he received information that the Navy's investigative arm had listed the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington "think tank" as "suspicious" because they had "known leftists working for them" and they were cooperating with "known leftist black groups."

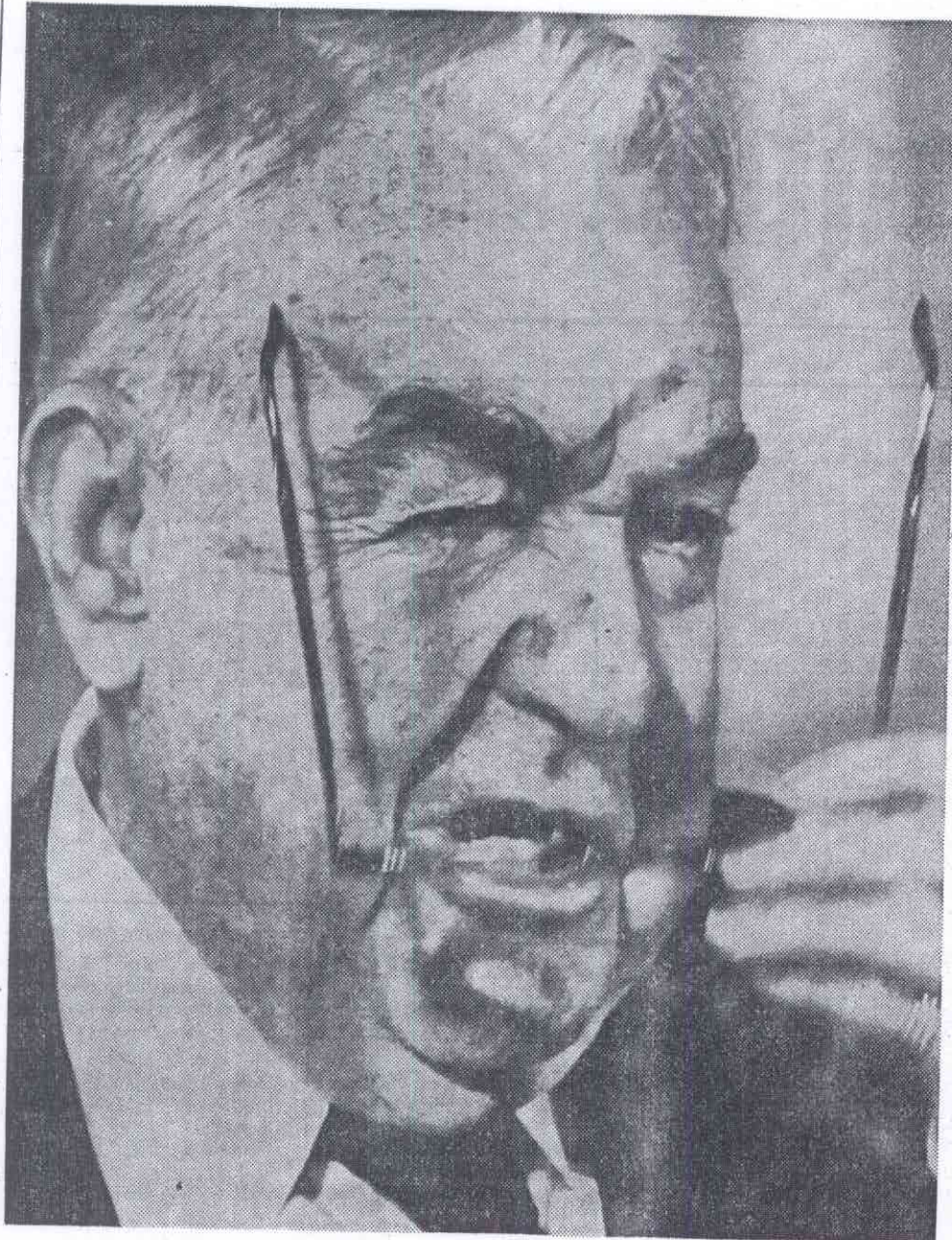
A state legislator from Texas, Curtis M. Graves, testified of being told by a former investigator that the Army had been watching him ever since he took part in desegregation sit-ins in Houston in 1960.

Graves spoke of a "growing paranoia" and fear that beset friends who were afraid to call him lest they wind up in a file, and he said his wife had to be hospitalized after learning of the surveillance.

Pentagon officials are to appear before Ervin's committee next Tuesday.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) introduced legislation yesterday requiring any government agency maintaining records on individuals to notify individuals that such records exist and to permit their inspection. A similar bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. Edward I. Koch (D-N.Y.).

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Associated Press

Sen. Ervin prepares for clearer look at hearings on Army surveillance.

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